



Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency
Situation Report # 6

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande
Operational Period: April 2024

New Emergency Orders (if any)

NONE

Emergency Response

- **We've lost 18 people since the Homeless Memorial** in December; **6 of those deaths occurred in April**, and **10 of those deaths were due to overdose**
- Jan. 2024 – Apr. 2024 reporting from **VFD shows 741 unique calls related to homelessness:**
 - April: 22 Fire calls & 264 Rescue/EMS
 - YTD: 45 Fire calls & 696 Rescue/EMS
- VPD data collection/tracking for emergency declaration purpose should be going live later this month. Other jurisdictions will be tracking their data as well.

HART Activities

- HART Coordinator (Homeless Response Coordinator) started May 13.
- In addition to the regular clean-ups noted in previous Situation Reports, HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - 112th & Coxley
 - Leverich/Discovery Trail
 - Bagley Park
 - 11th & Jefferson
 - Other smaller pop-up jobs/locations as needed
 - Assisted WSDOT with cleanups at several of their properties.
- Removed **30.67 tons of solid waste from public property** in April; **YTD: 143.03 tons**
- Responded to **132 My Vancouver app submissions in April**; **YTD: 389**

- HART is partnering with Community Court to provide alternate Community Restitution option for CC participants. Participants can now sign up to do cleanup activities with Sheila (Encampment Response Coordinator), and the response from participants has been very positive. **11 participants signed up for this option in April.**

Community engagement and tours:

- Senator Murray's congressional staff
- City of Wethersfield, CT and surrounding communities
- Crisis Intervention Team Training – HART presentation for VPD
- Individual neighbors
- Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Standing Committee on Maintenance (WASHTO SCoM) – Regional WSDOT partners asked HART to give a presentation on how we are addressing encampments and partnering with them to do so.
- Downtown Stakeholders presentation
- City of Ellensburg, WA
- Clark College CTC – Civics Hot Topics in Vancouver class: Housing the Unhoused + Comprehensive Growth Plan (Presented by Jamie Spinelli & Councilmember Stober)
- Northwest Neighborhood Association
- Final touch with WA State Department of Commerce and Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH): Case study for STEP (Shelter, Transitional, Emergency, and Permanent) Housing

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- **The Outpost:**
 - Welcomed 3 new residents
 - **1 resident making steady progress on Certified Peer Councilor classes**
 - **54% of residents over the age of 50**
 - Outsiders Inn has partnered with a doctor that comes in for residents and provides documentation required for housing (diagnoses/verification of disability required for some programs)
 - Residents attended Victory Garden cooking classes on-site, as well as art day at YMCA
 - Teach One to Lead One 5th graders made art and cards with positive mental health messages for Outpost residents
- **Hope Village:**

- **Celebrated 2-year anniversary!** Had a party to celebrate that was very well-attended by current residents, former residents, neighbors, other service providers and City reps.
 - Welcomed 2 new residents
 - **1 person exited to housing** (first placement with Lifeline Recovery Housing through recently developed partnership)
- **415 West:**
 - This site has now been open for 5 months!
 - **2 people exited to housing**, and 6 new residents were welcomed in
 - **2 additional residents have been referred to housing programs** and are working through those processes
 - As the weather has warmed up, more residents are spending time outside of their shelter units and engaging with staff and their neighbors.
- **Kiggins Village:**
 - This site has now been open for 4 months!
 - **1 person (veteran) exited to housing;** staff has visited resident to support transition
 - **3 additional residents with housing vouchers** and in housing search
 - Former veteran resident housed in March continues to visit to help with tasks around the site and is also adjusting well to new home
 - **1 person went to detox**
 - **91% of residents over the age of 45**
 - Fenced dog-run has now been installed
- **Road2Home-Safe Park:**
 - **4 residents exited to housing**
 - **1 resident transferred from vehicle to more substantial shelter** at one of our Safe Stays
 - 1 resident with culinary experience has partnered with Fourth Plain Commons Kitchen to be able to prepare meals for caregiving clients
 - **2 residents obtained full-time employment**
 - There are **14 children from 6 different households** currently living on-site; they all recently received a brand-new pair of VANS shoes due to a generous donation
 - Site provider (Thrive2Survive) has partnered with the City's Climate department to interview and survey folks experiencing homelessness to gain insight into how they prepare for and are impacted by severe weather conditions (extreme cold/heat, smoke, etc.) on those most vulnerable to climate change. Safe Park residents are participating in this project, as well as folks in Safe Stays and others who are living unsheltered.

Community Court

- Property use agreement is being developed for eventual moving and expansion of Community Court capacity.

Columbia River Mental Health Services – Community Response Team (CRMHS – CRT)
March 22 – April 25

- **Outreach**

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Incoming calls screened: | 9 |
| In-Person Responses: | 16 |
| Number of businesses contacted: | 21 |
| Public Engagement: | 45 locations, 88 individuals |

- **Example of Public Engagement**

- A representative from Fourth Plain Forward accompanied CRT to visit with 6 businesses. CRT was able to provide more detail about their team and what types of situations they could be contacted for support. Questions and concerns from the businesses were addressed and CRT contact info was provided. The Fourth Plain Forward representative was also able to assist with some translation needs for business owners and staff. The business owners and staff were appreciative of being made aware of the resource that is available to support them and their customers, and both the businesses and CRT appreciated the communication/translation support from Fourth Plain Forward.

- **Partnerships**

- St Vincent de Paul – twice a week
- The Lord’s Gym – weekly
- Recovery’ Café – weekly
- The Giving Closet – weekly
- Community Court – weekly
- The Center, Adventist Community Services – twice a week
- Fourth Plain Community Commons - weekly

Property Closures

None